

One of the most important pieces of equipment on every early day farm was the grindstone. Generally a man and a boy (sometimes a girl) were needed for the job of sharpening. The man held the blade against the stone and the boy turned the hand crank. The grindstone was used constantly to sharpen the scythes, sickles, axes, blades of planes, knives, hoes, shovels and many other pieces of farm implements. Many long hours were spent in sharpening sickles for the hay mower and oh! how relieved was the youngster when the task was finally completed.

THE OLD GRINDSTONE

By Bert Gamble in Utah Farmer

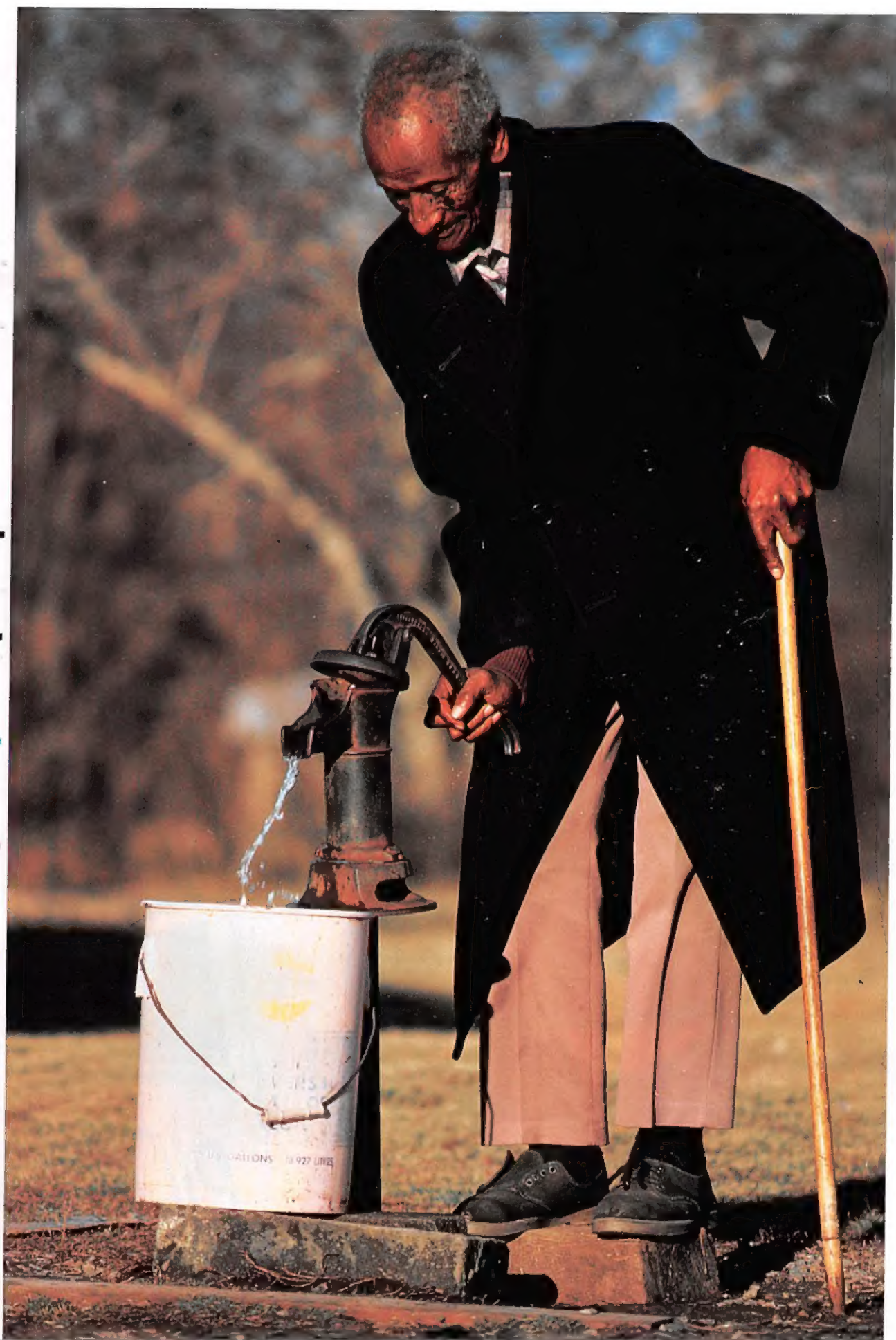
Where the wild rambler trailed over the woodshed
Tenderly hiding the rake and the spade;
Stood the old grindstone I turned in my childhood
Deep in the cool of the boxelder shade.

Dull were the axes and dull was the mower,
Heavy the hand of my big husky dad;
Moments seemed ages when I was the power
For the old grindstone I turned when a lad.

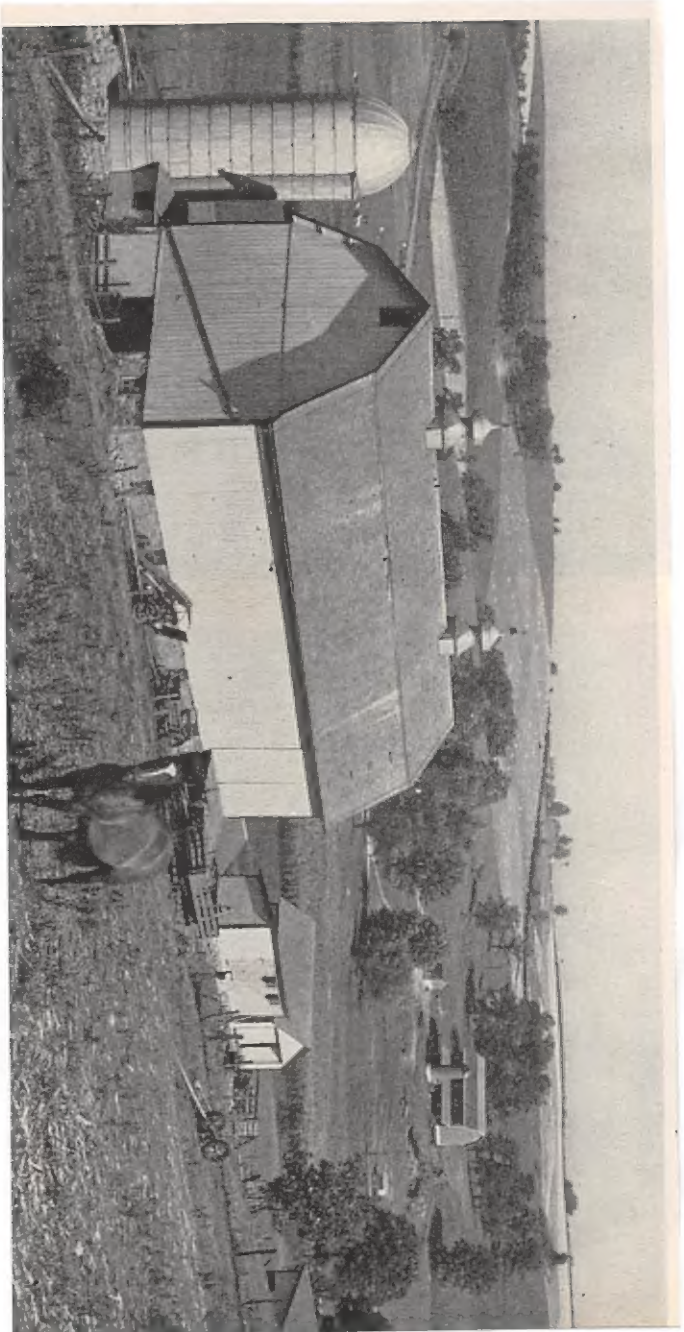
Long years have passed since I left the homestead,

Dad is at rest now at Calvary Hill
Gone in the main, are the memories of childhood
Only the grindstone lives with me still.

Bring me my horse and bring me my saddle,
Let me ride back o'er that landscape of yore;
There in the cool of the boxelder's shadows
Tenderly turn the old grindstone once more.



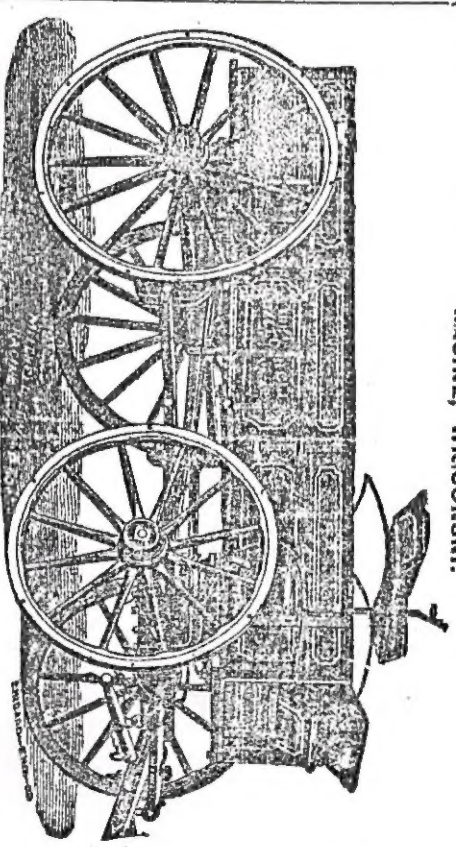
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Living Gallery Photo







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The feelings of apprehension had never left me, and I was wary and alert as I untied the lines and clucked for the horses to start. A cloud of loose dust followed my wagon wheels. I offered a fervent prayer for protection.





ALL EARS. Tennessee mule skinner Bernis White is headed to Columbia to celebrate annual Mule Days. He's a friend of diarist Louise Mills, the event's publicity chairman.